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Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
extracting information from about an application or a service on a computer, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the application or service; and deriving a signature for a subset of the attributes for the application or service.
2. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the signature in an XML file associated with the application or service.
3. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the information in an XML file associated with the application or service.
4. (New Claim) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the signature in the XML file.
5. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing an installer component of the computer.
6. (New Claim) The method of claim 5, wherein the information is stored in connection with the installer component.
7. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing more than one source for the information.
8. (New Claim) The method of claim 7, further comprising choosing a best source of the more than one sources for the information, and utilizing that best source to provide at least some of the information.

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9. (New Claim) The method of claim 8, further comprising storing information about the sources other than the best source with the information.

10. (New Claim) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving a signature comprises generating a number from the subset utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

11. (New Claim) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field representing information about an application or service on a computer, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the application; and

a second data field representing a signature derived from a subset of the attributes of the application or service.

12. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the subset of attributes represents information regarding a version of the application or service.

13. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the signature comprises a number generated utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

14. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the data structure further comprises a third data field representing a second signature for a second subset of the attributes of the application or service.

15. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the second subset of attributes represents information regarding a version of the application or service.

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16. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the data structure comprises the first data field, the second data field, and the third data field for a plurality of applications and/or services.

17. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the data structure comprises the first data field and the second data field for a plurality of applications and/or services.

18. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the data structure is stored in an XML file.

19. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first data field is stored in an XML file.

20. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the second data field is stored in an XML file.

21. (New Claim) A computer implemented method comprising:
enumerating executables associated with an application or service;
for each executable, extracting information about the executable, the information including a plurality of attributes regarding the executable; and
deriving a signature for a combined set of attributes including attributes from each of the executables.

22. (New Claim) The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the signature in an XML file associated with the application or service.

23. (New Claim) The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the information in an XML file associated with the application or service.

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24. (New Claim) The method of claim 23, further comprising storing the signature in the XML file.

25. (New Claim) The method of claim 21, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing an installer component of the computer.

26. (New Claim) The method of claim 25, wherein the information is stored in connection with the installer component.

27. (New Claim) The method of claim 21, wherein extracting the information comprises accessing more than one source for the information.

28. (New Claim) The method of claim 27, further comprising choosing a best source of the more than one sources for the information, and utilizing that best source to provide at least some of the information.

29. (New Claim) The method of claim 28, further comprising storing information about the sources other than the best source with the information.

30. (New Claim) The method of claim 21, wherein deriving a signature comprises generating a number from the combined set utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

31. (New Claim) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field representing information about executables associated with an application or service on a computer, the information including a plurality of attributes for each executable; and

a second data field representing a signature derived from a combined set of attributes including attributes from each of the executables.

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32. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the signature comprises a number generated utilizing a cyclic redundancy check.

33. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the data structure comprises the first data field and the second data field for a plurality of applications and/or services.

34. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the data structure is stored in an XML file.

35. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the data structure is stored in an XML file.

36. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the first data field is stored in an XML file.

37. (New Claim) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the second data field is stored in an XML file.

38. (New Claim) A method of evaluating the status of an application or a service located on a plurality of computers on a network, comprising:

accessing stored information regarding the application or service for each of the plurality of computers, the stored information comprising a signature derived from a subset of attributes of the application or service; and

evaluating the signatures to determine status of the application or service for each of the plurality of computers.

39. (New Claim) The method of claim 38, wherein the signature represents version information for the application or service for each of the plurality of computers.